



ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES

Volume No. 22 Issue No. 4

October, November, December, 2012

ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, December 6th, 6 p.m.

In The Theater of The Arizona Museum of Natural History
53 N. Macdonald (Enter from First Street)

Speaker: Dr. Todd Bostwick PhD, RPA

Dr. Bostwick will speak to us about his interest in Western Turkey Sites. He visited this area recently and will have a slide show along with insights and theories about the sites he visited. It should be an interesting presentation.

Dr. Bostwick served for 21 years as the City Archaeologist for the City of Phoenix at Pueblo Grande Museum, where he established a comprehensive archaeology compliance program and served as coordinator with the National Park Service for the Pueblo Grande National Historic Landmark. He currently works as Executive Director for the Verde Valley Archaeology Center in Camp Verde. He received his M.A. in Anthropology-Archaeology and a Ph.D. in History from Arizona State University. He has been a Faculty Associate at Arizona State University and at Northern Arizona University for seven years. Dr. Bostwick has written a variety of papers and books on Southwest archaeology and history including, *Landscape of the Spirits: Hohokam Rock Art at South Mountain Park* and *Byron Cummings: Dean of Southwest Archaeology*, both published by the University of Arizona Press.

This is our annual Holiday potluck! This will be a time for friends and great conversation. I know our members will bring all their wonderful special dishes for this meeting. SWAT will provide a Honey Baked Ham, all the tableware and drinks. See you at 6 p.m. in the Theater of the Museum.

Membership Renewal Time!

Please help SWAT by filling out the form on the back page and renewing your membership. You don't want to miss any of the interesting activities going on in this upcoming field season!

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Chair Chatter



**Donna Bengé
Chairperson**

Our season of field work has begun! I hope you will join us to help with our projects, which include helping to restore the Toltec School in Eloy and a stone building (Milk Barn) at the Park of the Canals in Mesa. We are also continuing to be mud slingers to maintain the Pueblo Grande mound area in Phoenix. In addition we have a crew working in the archaeology lab each Wednesday evening. Read more about these projects and the building of the new Visitors' Center at Mesa Grande Mound in this edition of the newsletter.

Join us for our holiday potluck on December 6th and enjoy a delicious Honey Baked Ham in addition to the potluck dishes. This will be followed by a presentation by Dr. Todd Bostwick about archaeological sites in Turkey.



Dates For Your 2013 Calendar

2013 Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month

The theme for the AAHAM month is "Life on the Edge: Feast or Famine in Arizona's Past." The poster will feature an aerial view of Perry Mesa. The Expo, which is the culmination of the month long activities, will be held Saturday, March 16th at the Horseshoe Ranch located on the Agua Fria National Monument.

2013 Arizona Historic Preservation Conference

Next year's conference will be held in Mesa on June 12 - 14. There will be many workshops and tours of interest to SWAT members, and we will also need helpers for some tours and events.

A Tribute To George Butler

Long-Time SWAT Member

George Butler, Jr. passed away peacefully on May 16, 2012 after a long courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. He was born April 13, 1923 in Newark, NJ. In 1951 he moved to Tucson AZ where he spent 16 years in the Entomology Department at the U of A. Since he worked with insects his nickname became "Bugsy."



In 1972, George moved his family to Tempe where he became a Research Entomologist at the Western Cotton Research Laboratory. He retired from this position in 1986.

George was part of a group who excavated at a site on McClintock near Broadway in Tempe in 1977. This group of avocational archaeologists formed the Southwest Archaeology

Team (SWAT). In 1994, SWAT began providing volunteers for stabilization at Pueblo Grande. George, who was retired, spent over 2000 hours during the 16 years he stabilized and reconstructed walls at the site. He was one of the original "PGM Mudslingers."

George was a tireless volunteer during the 30+ years that he was a SWAT member. He participated in our excavations, stabilizations, and various other activities. At the December 2010 SWAT membership meeting, George was presented a plaque for his many years of SWAT service.

In addition to archaeology projects, George was a volunteer for many organizations including: Boy and Girl Scouts, 4H, UMOM, Dayspring United Methodist Church-Give Ye Them to Eat Mexico work team, the Chandler Library, and the Tempe St. Luke's Hospital. He also sang in various choirs. At the age of 77 he became a tireless quilter. He donated over 2000 quilts to several organizations.

George is survived by Judith his wife of 15 years, his brother, three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

George will be missed by all who knew him. He was a remarkable man.

Mesa Grande Construction

The Visitors' Center Goes Up

By Dr. Jerry Howard

As this goes to press the rammed earth walls, the major architectural features of the new visitor's center at the Mesa Grande Cultural Park are essentially done! The construction crew is currently taking the forms down and exposing the wall. The "rammed earth" wall is a combination of concrete and dirt. Forms are erected, the mixture is poured in to a depth of about 6 inches and then special pneumatic tools are used to pound and "compact" the earth. The resulting wall is approximately 2 feet thick and has wavy lines between the pours that are wavy as opposed to straight, giving it the look of natural stratigraphy or layers of soil. We are very pleased with the resulting color and texture.

The two rammed earth walls taper down to the ground to the east and north of the building. This provides a very unique visual image. The high peak where the walls meet is closer to the visitor as they enter the site; the walls tapering away seem to "envelope" the mound as if with two big arms. The image is very striking and this will be a very unique building for a very unique site.

The next step is to pour the colored concrete floor and to build up the concrete block walls and ceiling. We have selected a sandstone for the gathering area that is a golden brown color, very reminiscent of Chaco and its architecture. The utilities are going in, providing water, sewer and power to the building.

Bert Strobl with the help of Carla Booker, both long-time SWAT members, have been monitoring all ground disturbance at the site. Bert also made sure the members of the construction crews were well aware of all of the regulations, dos and don'ts of working at the site. Only one trash pit was uncovered so far thanks to deep fill and erosional deposits in the area of the building.



Construction under way for the visitors' center at Mesa Grande mound.

Photo by Jim Britton

We just got word this week that Maricopa County is providing the funny triangle of land outside our eastern fence to us as an easement. The streets department also informed us that they are moving forward on the construction of a bus pullout capable of handling two busses at a time. This will allow school busses to drop students off at the site without turning into the residential area of 10th street.

We are now planning for volunteers to run tours at the site and Alison Stoltman from the museum's educational department is putting together a unique educational program. We also hope to look at getting volunteers back to the Sistine House to open it for visitors in the near future.

Lab Crew Is Repackaging Sherds

The lab crew continues to work diligently each Wednesday evening repackaging sherds from the Rowley site. We have about 15 more boxes to finish and will then transfer the boxes we have completed to the new storage area in the basement of the Federal Building. We will then put all the bags of sherds in new boxes and store them on the shelves that are already in place.

Pueblo Grande Stabilization

By Jim Britton

When the Mudslingers came to work in September, they were faced with a challenging task of stabilization. The last stabilization had been done on May 19, 2012. Due to the extreme heat, work was discontinued during the summer. During the summer months the rain gauge next to the platform mound recorded 3.94 inches of rain. Most of the rain occurred in August. The site received a little over 1 inch of rain in one day. This downpour caused extensive erosion to the slopes surrounding the mound and the room walls.

Sixteen Mudslingers worked during the September workday to repair the damage. Some of the basal erosion was so deep that it would take multiple coats of mud to fill in the voids. If the void is more than two inches deep the first application needs to dry before the second coat is applied. Therefore, it takes a couple of workdays to complete the repair.

The October 20th workday was National Archaeology Day. The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) used our project as their National Archaeology Day event. They provided 19 volunteers, most of which were students at Paradise Valley Community College. They joined 12 other Mudslingers to form a very large work crew. Due to the anticipated large number of volunteers,



Paradise Valley Community College students and SWAT members “slinging mud” at Pueblo Grande Mound. Photo by Jim Britton

the museum staff had arranged to have a docent present who gave two site tours. The AIA group was split into two groups; one throwing mud while the other took a tour. After two hours these two groups switched, thus providing them all an opportunity to learn about the site and to do stabilization. The large crew used a lot of mud. The mud mixers, Wilson Allen and Ed Bondzeleske, mixed 180 gallon of mud which is nearly twice the normal amount.

Our next work day will be November 17. If you would like to help the PGM Mudslingers, call Jim Britton (480)827-8070 for more information concerning the schedule and starting times.

Verdugo Site And Toltec School Updates

By Jim Britton and Donna Bengé

VERDUGO: In October a crew went to the Verdugo site to do maintenance work at the schoolhouse and stage stop. The last repair work was done there in April, 2012. We were happy to note that even after several severe rainstorms in the area there was only slight damage below the window sills where rain water had run down the interior mud wall plaster in both buildings. The schoolhouse roof had a loose screw that let water drip down on one of the wall faces. There was also some vandalism in the large room of the schoolhouse. A drawing had been etched into the mud plaster by a very talented artist. It is important to remove or repair any vandalism because if left it can encourage other vandals to cause damage. The etching was removed by using a wet sponge float.

TOLTEC: After working at the Verdugo buildings, SWAT members went to the Toltec school site near Eloy. The one-room building looks quite handsome now with the screens installed on the windows and doors. The inside was dusted, swept, and spruced up so visitors can see what it was like when it was the school designated

for what were referred to as “the colored students.”

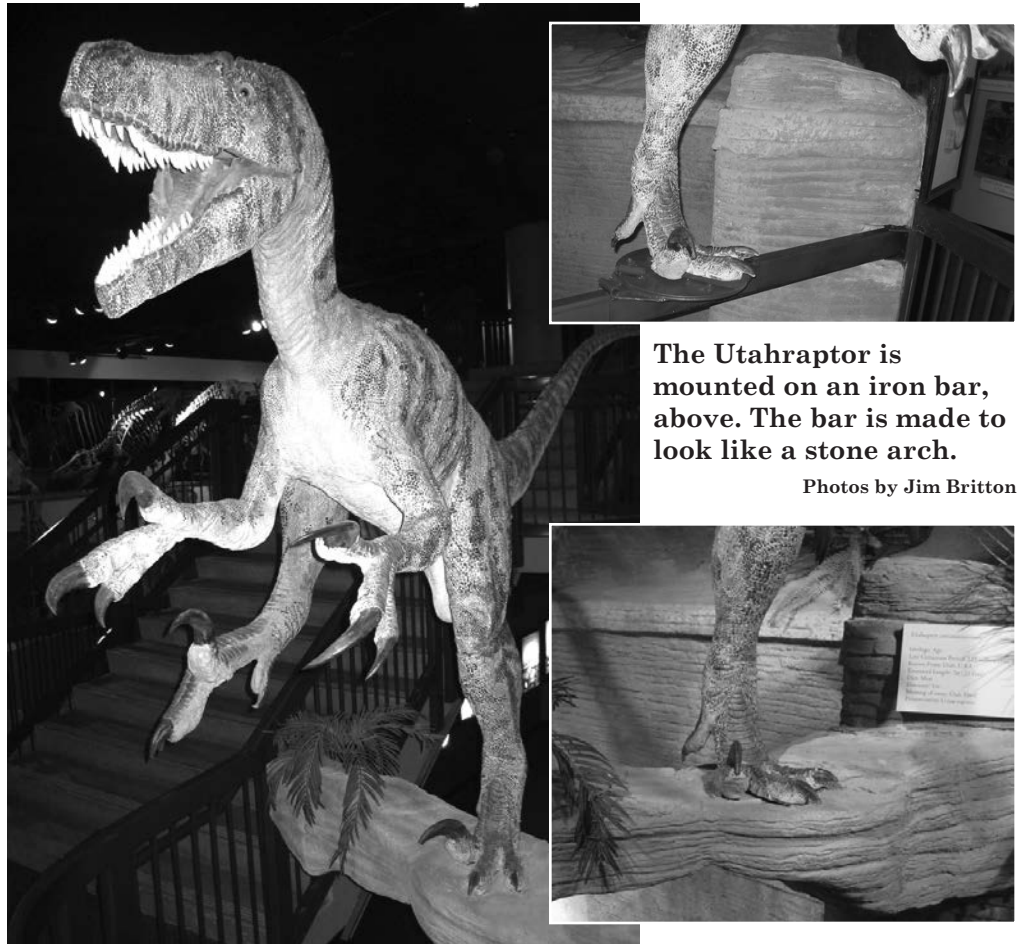
Now we are working on the larger school building. Termite-damaged door frames are being removed and pipes are being exposed in the bathrooms so a volunteer plumber can install new copper piping. Next time, we will continue with that work and also do some door painting and paint scraping. We carpool from the museum on the first Saturday of each month. If you are interested in helping, please contact Donna Bengé or Jim Britton.

On October 27, a fund raiser dinner was held in Casa Grande by the Santa Cruz Valley Historic Museum to help with the restoration of the Toltec School. SWAT members who have been helping with the projects were invited as guests. Those who attended enjoyed a great dinner, dance music, and many opportunities to win door prizes, raffle prizes, and silent auctions items. There also was a live auction for some of the special and unique items such as the life size kachina made by Dick Myers (SWAT member and President of the Santa Cruz Valley Historic Museum). He welded various pieces of metal into a very unique and valuable piece of art.

A New Dinosaur!

The Arizona Museum of Natural History recently acquired an exciting new dinosaur. The Utahraptor is a very scary dinosaur. It lived during the Early Cretaceous period 130 – 120 million years ago. It can get 23 feet long and weigh up to 1500 pounds. They are probably the biggest raptor that ever lived. They were big meat eaters and could easily slash and kill with their large claws.

The Raptor was mounted on an iron bar welded into place just behind the railing as you enter the Dinosaur area. It's standing on an arch constructed by Jim Britton who is a member of the Monday Exhibits Preparation crew. The arch was constructed using styrofoam covered with cement. The stone layers and color were made to match the surrounding mountain.



The Utahraptor is mounted on an iron bar, above. The bar is made to look like a stone arch.

Photos by Jim Britton

Milk Barn Project Update

By Dr. Jerry Howard

The Milk Barn Project, in the city of Mesa's Park of the Canals has, frankly, been creeping along and not making much progress. In thinking about the project I realized that we have been out so infrequently that each work day we are all wondering a bit what we have to do. The only progress made has been due to Jim Britton's well-conceived planning.

To get us really going I have made a proposal to the board that we create several teams to organize tasks and to be sure that everyone has a job laid out before we get to the site on work days. I have proposed four teams:

1. A roof team to continue our work on the roof. This will require some additional re-enforcing of the roof trusses due to some dry rot that I found a few weeks ago. The ridge cap also needs to be installed.
2. A concrete team to start working on a mortar formula to match the original mortar used in the walls. We need to fix the lintel area above the one window and the walls around the outside feeding area.
3. A window team to begin making new wooden replacement pieces for the windows and to install

them. We have old pieces that may be reused or used as templates for new pieces.

4. A door team to begin making new doors. It seems to me that we could make some doors that may look better for the building than it would putting on more modern doors.

I believe that we could get these teams going with as few as two people per team. If a team, say the roof team, needs extra hands we could certainly have people from other teams help for a while. Through this approach I think we can organize people better and make sure everyone has a job to do – no waiting or standing around.

We need to poll our volunteers to see which day they would like to schedule this activity. It was suggested we schedule work days on either the 2nd Saturday or 4th Saturday. If you are interested in working on one of the above days and teams (or just want to work but can't pick which incredibly exciting team you want to work on) send a quick email to Jerry Howard at jerry.howard@mesaaz.gov or call 480 644-3428 with any comments, questions, rebukes or donations of large sums of money.

New **Membership Application** Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Membership Type: Family (\$20) Individual (\$15) Student (\$10)

Family Member Names: _____

Areas Of Interest

I Want To Help With

- Calling Committee
- Education/Teaching Programs
- Excavation
- Lab Analysis
- Stabilization
- Survey

I Want To Learn More About

- Excavation Techniques
- Historic Preservation
- Stabilization Techniques
- Survey Techniques
- Other: _____

Return This Form To: Southwest Archaeology Team
PO Box 5368, Mesa, AZ

Southwest Archaeology Team

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Southwest Archaeology Team

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Ancient Echoes is the
newsletter of the Southwest
Archaeology Team, which is in
a cooperative agreement with
the Arizona Museum of
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